

<b>Concept Paper</b>		
<b>Video Conference to Disseminate Study on “Possible Uses of Crop Residue for Energy Generation Instead of Open Burning”</b>		
<b>Video Conference</b>	<b>PRG-209/2021/PETREN</b>	<b>SEC</b>

**Background:**

Rice and wheat are dominant crops in South Asian countries (mainly in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan); resultantly, producing large quantity of residual straw, which is generally burnt in open air. As a result of burning of this agriculture waste, the black carbon emissions combined with dense winter fog, give rise to atmospheric smog in South Asia. Though the burning has some short-term advantages to the farmers; yet it gives birth to major health and environmental issues. Therefore, to counter these environmental and health impacts, the crop residue needs some alternative treatment instead of open burning. One possible solution is converting crop residue into useful energy, such as, electricity generation using crop residue as fuel in power plant or production of synthesis gas from the crop residue.

To evaluate the potential of crop residue available in SAARC region, for conversion into useful energy and to assess technological options with valid cost benefit analysis; SEC carried out a study on “Possible Use of Crop Residue for Energy Generation Instead of Open Burning” in FY 2019. The dissemination of the study report could not be carried out in year 2020 due to COVID 19 pandemic; and is planned on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 through virtual means.

**Introduction:**

In order to share the important aspects and findings of the study report with wider audience, SEC under its thematic area “Programme on Integrated Assessments of Energy, Transport, and Environment (PETREN)” is organizing a video conference to disseminate the study on “Possible Uses of Crop Residue for Energy Generation Instead of Open Burning”.

The video conference will include presentations from authors of the report explaining its important aspects, findings and recommendations. This dissemination activity shall be an interactive session between presenters and the audience. The resultant outcome will eventually be made part of the study report for its final printing and distribution.

**Objectives:**

The objectives of this dissemination video conference are to:

1. Disseminate study report and its findings/ recommendations.
2. Seek views of expert based on their experience about various possible solutions to address the issue while considering local conditions of Member States.
3. Incorporate inputs and comments of the participants from Member State in the study report.

**Major Aspects /Topics to be Covered:**

The following major areas/ topics shall be covered in this dissemination video conference:

1. Overview of agriculture sector, prevalent disposal methods and technologies to generate energy from crop residue.
2. Energy generation potential for Member States, barriers and challenges for implementation and recommendations.
3. Cost benefit analysis to convert crop residue into energy.
4. Challenges in handling and utilization of paddy straw for energy generation.
5. International best practices to generate energy from crop residues and SAARC experience.
6. Conclusion and way forward.

**Potential Professional Resource:**

Team of experts from M/s PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Private Limited, India who conducted the study shall present in this video conference. Moreover, SEC's in-house professionals would also be contributing to the video conference by sharing their knowledge and experience with the participants.

**Venue:**

The video conference shall be broadcasted from the office of the SAARC Energy Centre (SEC), Islamabad.